

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00350 252014Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /078 W

----- 073736

R 251740Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0350

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XL, RQ, US, NS

SUBJ: FRONT GROUP PROMOTES PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

REF : PARAMARIBO A-13 (NOTAL)

1. DELEGATION OF WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC), HELSINKI-BASED INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND REPORTED COMMUNIST FRONT OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE BY ELIMINATING QTE IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND RACISM UNQTE, VISITED PARAMARIBO JULY 22-24. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO SECURE SURINAMESE ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT HAVANA NEXT SEPTEMBER ON QTE STRUGGLE UNQTE OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00350 252014Z

2. DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF DR. PEDRO ALBIZU, PUERTO RICAN QTE ECONOMIST UNQTE, DR. FRANCIS MELI, SOUTH AFRICAN QTE HISTORIAN UNQTE, AND DR. RAFAEL PEDRAZA, QTE PROFESSOR OF THE HAVANA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY UNQTE.

3. VISITORS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL PUBLICITY, INCLUDING FIFTEEN-MINUTE TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON GOVERNMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM, WHICH THEY USED WITH PRACTISED EFFECTIVENESS TO CHARACTERIZE PUERTO RICO AS AN ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED AND EXPLOITED US COLONY. THEY CALLED FOR FORMATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE AND PREPARE FOR SURINAMESE ATTENDANCE AT ABOVE-MENTIONED HAVANA CONFERENCE. SIMILAR COMMITTEES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED ALL AROUND CARIBBEAN REGION, VISITORS SAID. SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING AT WHICH VISITORS SPOKE DREW ABOUT FORTY PERSONS.

4. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF CID, ORGANIZATION OF SURINAM COMMUNISTS (OSKOM), OR LIE PAUW SAN GROUP AS IT IS POPULARLY CALLED AFTER ITS LEADER, SERVED AS CONTACT POINT AND LOCAL SPONSOR OF WPC DELEGATION. OSKOM IS ONE OF SEVERAL SMALL AND COMPETING COMMUNIST-ORGANIZATIONS IN SURINAM AND THE ONE WITH BEST INTERNATIONAL (COMMUNIST) CONNECTIONS. IT RECENTLY ORGANIZED SURINAM-CUBA FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE (SEE REFERENCE) AND IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONAL BASE FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE EFFORT. TWO OSKOM MEMBERS RETURNED FROM VISIT TO CUBA ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO.

5. CID HEAD KNOWS OF NO CONNECTION OR CONTACT BETWEEN WPC DELEGATION AND THE GOVERNMENT. INDEED, HE REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT WAS CAUGHT UNAWARES BY VISIT AND THAT CID HAS HAD TO SCRAMBLE TO KEEP ABREAST OF DELEGATION'S MOVEMENTS AND CONTACTS. SOMEHOW DR. PEDRAZA WAS ADMITTED TO COUNTRY WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION REQUIRED OF ALL CUBAN NATIONALS.

6. EXPERIENCE OF SURINAM-CUBA FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE SUGGESTS THAT PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WILL ATTRACT MINIMAL FOLLOWING. LARGE RESERVE OF GOODWILL TOWARD US AMONG MAJORITY OF SURINAMERS, COUNTRY'S LONG ISOLATION FROM THIRD WORLD CONCERNS AND GENERAL PREOCCUPATION WITH SURINAM'S OWN INDEPENDENCE, SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 25, PROVIDE POOR SOIL FOR COMMUNIST PROSELYTIZING, MOREOVER, OSKOM'S ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER

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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00350 252014Z

FROM INTENSE RIVALRIES THAT HAVE SPLIT AND WEAKENED SURINAMESE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. AND VISITORS' CRAMPED ACCOMODATIONS IN PARAMARIBO -- THREE IN ONE HOTEL ROOM -- INDICATE THAT PROSPECTIVE WPC FINANCIAL SUPPORT MAY NOT BE LAVISH. STILL, LACK OF MASS FOLLOWING AND OTHER PROBLEMS WILL NOT PREVENT OSKOM FROM PARTICIPATING AT HAVANA CONFERENCE, IF HELD, AND FROM CHANNELLING ANTI-AMERICAN CONFERENCE PROPAGANDA INTO SURINAM.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO AIR POUCH COPIES
OF US STATEMENTS IN UN AND OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON
PUERTO RICO FOR DISCREET USE WITH MEDIA, GOVERNMENT, ETC.,
SHOULD NEED ARISE.
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Message Attributes

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